

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8643
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 06000

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF US AND ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS
IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) KABUL 2737; (B) PARIS 12163; (C) KABUL 665;
(D) GENEVA 640; (E) STATE 2671; (F) 77 KABUL 88; (G) STATE
96325

1. AMEMBASSY KABUL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT A MEETING BE HELD
IN GENEVA OF US AND UN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS
PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS OF COORDINA-
TION OF THOSE PROGRAMS AND TO DEVISE MEANS TO IMPROVE
THEM (REF F). DEPARTMENT HAD PROBLEMS WITH TIMING PRO-
POSED AND WITH NEED TO ENSURE ALL LOCAL MEANS OF
COORDINATION HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED (REF E). THIS MISSION HAD
MISGIVINGS ABOUT OMITTING GOA REPRESENTATION FROM SUCH
A MEETING (REF D) BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO US THAT AFFIRMATIVE
GOA PARTICIPATION FROM THE START IS ESSENTIAL TO THE LONG
RUN SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, ITS OMMISSION
COULD RAISE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS. IT AP-
PEARS TO MISSION NOW THAT THE ORIGINAL TIMING PROBLEMS ARE
PAST, THAT LOCAL KABUL MEANS OF COORDINATION HAVE BEEN
EXHAUSTED (REF B), AND THAT GOA PARTICIPATION IS JUST NOT
IN THE CARDS (REF C). UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN
VIEW OF WORSENING SITUATION EXCELLENTLY ANALYSED REF B,
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WE BELIEVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF RELEVANT OFFICIALS
WOULD BE WORTH HAVING IN GENEVA. WE WOULD RECOMMEND,
HOWEVER, THAT POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT BE AVOIDED BY
DROPPING THE CONCEPT "US/UN MEETING (OR CONFERENCE) ON
AFGHANISTAN" AND SUBSTITUTING INSTEAD THE IDEA OF LOW KEY
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON PROGRAMS, AND BY INFORMING THE
GOA NARCOTICS COORDINATOR THAT THEY WILL BE TAKING PLACE.

2. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH DND DIRECTOR LING AND, IN ABSENCE OF DR. REXED, WITH UNFDAC DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WELLMAN. BOTH WERE SYMPATHETIC TO IDEA OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROGRAMS SO LONG AS THEY WERE HELD IN LOW-KEY MANNER. SPECIAL CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT DISCUSSIONS OF REWARD PAYMENTS SYSTEM, WHICH IS SENSITIVE TOPIC IN UN CIRCLES, BE HELD DISCREETLY. WHILE WELLMAN COULD NOT APPROVE ON BEHALF OF REXED, HE SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO REXED THAT UNFDAC PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS. (REXED IS CURRENTLY VISITING AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND AND WILL RETURN TO GENEVA APRIL 30).

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMING OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, MISSION NOTES THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED IN THE DRUG CONTROL FIELD:

MAY 3 - 8: UNFDAC REPS (EMBLAD AND DEMETRE) VISIT ADB IN MANILA (TENTATIVE)

MAY 16 - 26: MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

MAY 23 - 31: JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN KABUL (TENTATIVE)

JUNE 4 - 13: FALCO/BOURNE TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN.

IN ADDITION DND DIRECTOR LING WILL BE AWAY MAY 22-26 AND UNFDAC DEPUTY WELLMAN WILL BE ON HOME LEAVE MAY 10-31.
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WITH ALL OF THESE IN MIND, MISSION SUGGESTS THAT WEEK OF JUNE 12 PROVIDES EARLIEST TARGET DATE, ASSUMING FALCO/BOURNE VISIT AFGHANISTAN BEFORE PAKISTAN. OTHERWISE WEEK OF JUNE 19 WOULD BE BETTER.

4. MISSION THEREFORE PROPOSES TO PLAN ON COORDINATING US/UN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON AFGHAN PROGRAM FOR WEEK OF JUNE 12 OR JUNE 19, DEPENDING ON FALCO/BOURNE TRAVEL SCHEDULE. MISSION CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDED LIST OF ATTENDEES REF A, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT IT PERCEIVES ADDITIONAL NEED FOR PARTICIPATION OF IO/HDC DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ACTION OFFICER.

5. PLEASE ADVISE CONCERNING PREFERRED DATES FOR CONSULTATIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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